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cont

46. (New) The device of claim 8, wherein said filtration medium comprises a substrate having a surface fused to a mixture of adsorbent particles and binder particles, and binder particles fusing at least a portion of said adsorbent particles to each other.

REMARKS

This application, as amended herein, contains claims 1-37, and newly added claims 38-46. New claims 38-46 have been added to further highlight features of Applicants' invention.

As noted in the specification on page 15, lines 1-5, Applicants' invention, as set forth in newly added claims 38-45, has the advantage of being capable of retrofitting into virtually any beverage brewer. In commercially available brewing machines, there is essentially no room between the top of the brewing basket and the supporting frame of the beverage brewer that holds such brewing basket. Applicants' invention solves this problem by having the entire means for removing contaminants placed entirely within, and below the top of the brewing basket, so that physical changes to the beverage brewer are not required to use the invention. This insures that Applicants' invention is usable by the millions of beverage brewers already purchased by consumers. Furthermore, by being placed entirely within the brewing basket, but suspended above the beverage ingredients, the means for removing is separated from the brewing ingredients so that such means for removing is not contaminated by those ingredients. The flexible protrusions permit the means for

removing to be received and horizontally stabilized within beverage ingredient compartments having a wide range of sizes, again facilitating the use of apparatus of the invention in a broad range of retrofit situations. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that newly added claims 38-45 are also directed to patentable subject matter.

Newly added claim 46 states that the filtration medium comprises a substrate having a surface fused to a mixture of adsorbent particles and binder particles, and that binder particles fuse at least a portion of the adsorbent particles to each other. As noted in the specification, this type of composite material, and a method for producing it, is described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,792,513. It offers the advantage of immobilizing the adsorbent material into a generally planar structure, which does not have the handling and other difficulties of many prior art filtration materials and approaches.

In view of the above, and in view of the reasons set forth with respect to independent claim 1, it is submitted that the dependent claims discussed above are also directed to patentable subject matter. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims in this application are respectfully requested.

If any issue remains that can be resolved by telephone, the undersigned and the Applicants would greatly appreciate a call by the Examiner to the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

A check for \$81 is enclosed for the presentation of nine (9) additional dependent claims herein.

Respectfully submitted,

David Aker

JUNE 14, 2002

David Aker, Reg. No. 29,277

Date

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